



From the Desk of Howard  
County Councilmember  
Dr. Calvin Ball

February 2015

# The Calvin Ball Bulletin

## Construction Edition

### Welcome!

In an effort to keep you informed, it's my pleasure to share a list of projects currently construction around our community and their respective timelines, where available. These projects may cause delays, so I encourage you to stay tuned, plan ahead and use caution when driving.

Have questions about an ongoing construction project in your neighborhood? Please reach out to me so I can look into it for you!

Please feel free to share this information with your neighbors. If you have ideas on projects within District Two or Howard County you'd like to see within this newsletter, please email me at [cball@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:cball@howardcountymd.gov) or my Special Assistant Kim Pruum at [kpruum@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:kpruum@howardcountymd.gov).

### Stream Restoration at Rt175/Oakland Mills RD

A Howard County construction project to repair an eroding stream in CA open space on Rt175 at Oakland Mills Rd has begun. The stream and storm drain outfall will be graded and stabilized using a combination of stone and vegetative treatments. Existing invasive species along the stream banks will be removed and replaced with native plants. Weather permitting the project is expected to be completed by early March 2015.

For questions or concerns, contact Lisa Brightwell at 410-313-3440 or email [publicworks@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:publicworks@howardcountymd.gov)

### Oakland Mills Rd Tunnel Lighting Improvements

After hearing concerns from the community, I've coordinated with Recreation & Parks for the installation of lights in the tunnel under Oakland Mills Road. This increased visibility will promote safety. A proposal has gone out and if no unforeseen complications arise, we hope this project can be complete in February 2015, weather permitting.

### Rt 29 Widening Project

#### Phase IA Extension of Old Columbia Road

This project is currently under construction and includes utility relocation and new roadway clearing. The extension of Old Columbia Road to Twin Knolls Road will permit SHA to close the at grade intersection at Rt29 northbound. This project is expected to be completed by spring 2015, weather permitting.

#### Phase 1B NB Rt29 Third Lane Widening & Noise Wall Construction

Construction has begun and the project is anticipated to be complete in September 2016, weather permitting. SHA is still in negotiations with the two remaining property owners on Gales Lane to resolve direct access to Rt29.

Noise walls will be constructed along the east side of NB Rt29 from Seneca Drive to MD175. To facilitate construction of the noise walls to the south of the exit ramp NB US29 to EB MD 175, the ramp must be relocated approx. 300ft to the north. During this time, traffic will be detoured to the west MD175 exit ramp and directed around the loop ramps of the MD175 interchange to return to east MD175.

**Rivers's Edge:** SHA is working with the River's Edge Community regarding options for this interchange



## Oakland Mills-Based Projects

### Stevens Forest Rd/White Acre Streetscape

To reinvest in Oakland Mills and our Village Center, I've been working with the County to develop a streetscape project that supports our OM Master Plan. A revised plan was presented to the Village Board Tuesday, February 24, 2015. Concept Plan 1 includes storm water management facilities, sidewalks, pedestrian crossings, shared bike lanes, lightings, preservation and plantings of trees, roadway medians, on-street parking and relocated bus shelters. Plans are currently under review by County agencies. We anticipate work to begin Spring 2015, weather permitting.

### Rt175/Blandair Park Interchange

This project will construct an interchange directly from Rt175 into Blandair Park, reducing traffic coming into Oakland Mills and our local roads.

The County has awarded the contract and construction is expected March 2015, weather permitting. The timeframe of this project and the alignment of Oakland Mills Road is approximately two years.

### Oakland Mills Rd Realignment at Blandair

This project will construct a roundabout at the intersection of Oakland Mills Rd and Old Montgomery and realign Oakland Mills Rd in the park. The timeframe of this project is approx. 22 months and we anticipate work to begin Spring 2015, weather permitting. Motorists may experience detours. As part of construction in Blandair, a bridge will be constructed over Route 175 connecting to the northern portion of the Park. Once that is complete, the entrance to Blandair Park from Sohaph will be closed, reducing resident concerns about increased traffic and speeding on Oakland Mills neighborhood streets.

### Blandair Park: Phase 2 Construction

Construction of Phase II will include sidewalk connections, a playground, 2 artificial turf fields, comfort station, pavilion, 5 tennis courts, parking lot, a promenade, County bus stop and stormwater management facilities.

We anticipate work to begin Spring 2015, and could take two years to complete, weather permitting.

### Rt 175 at Tamar

SHA and the County will install flex posts on the south side of Tamar Dr to reduce U-turns made by motorists who attempt to avoid waiting for the light. This project is anticipated to begin Spring 2015, weather permitting.

### Rt 175 at Thunder Hill Rd

The county has completed pedestrian improvements at Rt175 and Thunder Hill Rd including a missing portion of sidewalk in front of Walgreens. This project was initiated at my request and is a collaboration with the County and SHA. To complete the work, SHA must install ADA compliant pedestrian crossing signals. They anticipate work to be complete March 2015, weather permitting.

### Multi-Use Pathway: Phase 2, 3 and 4

As part of the Downtown Columbia redevelopment legislation, it requires Howard Hughes to construct a multi-use pathway from Howard County General Hospital to Blandair Park. (CEPPA 12) Phase 2, 3 and 4 were approved by the Planning Board on November 20, 2014. The existing pathway will be widened and vegetation alongside the path will be pruned for security as necessary. Intersections and crosswalks will be designed to accommodate and mark pedestrian traffic and include appropriate signage. Additional lights will be installed to increase visibility and safety for pedestrians and bicyclists. The developer is currently working to obtain necessary easements to move forward with this project.



## Rt103 at Wesley/Old Stockbridge

Due to traffic concerns expressed to SHA and my office, SHA is proposing a traffic signal project to include left-turn phasing along eastbound and westbound MD103, pedestrian control signals, and crosswalk pavement markings along the west leg of MD103 and Old Stockbridge Dr. At this time, SHA is working on right of way acquisition. They hope to begin work summer 2016.

## Rt 103 @ Long Gate Pkwy

There are two projects in this corridor: SHA is studying widening Rt103 and a property owner has proposed a housing project on Rt103/Montgomery Rd next to the YMCA. It would allow for up to 79 townhomes with a max density of 111 townhomes. SHA is also working with the property owner to install the missing sidewalk portion & possible installation of a light.

School allocations have placed this project on hold; however, SHA may choose to construct the missing portion of the sidewalk in the interim near the Gatherings though at this time, there is no funding for the project. A public meeting will be held but none are scheduled at this time.

## Rt100 @ Rt29 Light Outage

Due to manholes filled with water, SHA is reporting the lights on Rt100 at Rt29 are out. They will need to replace the connector kits to restore power. There is no timeframe on its completion.

## Merriweather at Symphony Woods

The planning board approved Merriweather Park at Symphony Woods Phase I, 2 & future phases 3-7 for the uses, locations and general design of the features proposed in all phases on the condition that additional County review and Planning Board approval will be required for final design details prior to obtaining grading or building permits for phases 3-7. They are currently working on obtaining developer agreements.

Below you will find updates on construction projects occurring along the Route 1 corridor.

## Rt 1 at Assateague Dr

This SHA and County collaboration was initiated as a request from my office to help improve walkability and pedestrian safety. Specifically, the County will construct a sidewalk along Assateague Dr from the Rt 1 right-of-way (ROW) line to the end of the existing sidewalk (900+ft) We are working through utility conflicts and hoping to move forward with construction in summer of 2015. SHA has agreed to construct a crosswalk on the north side of the intersection. This project has begun and construction is ongoing.

## Rt 1 Sidewalk, Crestmount to Cedar

At my request, SHA will coordinate efforts to improve pedestrian improvements in this area. Specifically, SHA will construct a missing portion of sidewalk along Route 1 from Crestmount south to Cedar. The County will arrange for a public meeting; however, no date has been selected.

## Route 1 at Montevideo Rd

This project will include the relocation of Montevideo Road to align with Port Capital Drive. SHA still anticipates this project will likely proceed before the US1 widening. The 65% plans from SHA were received and the County is working to address complete and are working through SHA comments. BG&E completed their plans for utility relocations and the County has authorized them to proceed. SHA and the County are still working to receive needed land acquisitions.

## Rt 1: Rt 175 to Montevideo

This is a State Highway project to widen Route 1 near the intersection of Route 175 and make other improvements as needed. Currently, SHA and the County are still working on an MOU that will among many things, coordinate right-of-way land acquisitions necessary for the project and collaborate with BGE to relocate the utility poles. Plats are being developed to address the r/w line needed to relocate the utility poles.

## Route 175 Improvements

SHA is programming two short term intersection improvement projects: I-95 NB to Rt 175 EB – elimination of the slip ramp and creation of a right-turn movement to better manage the weave of traffic for Rt1 NB; US1 NB to Rt175 WB – Widen Rt1 NB to allow for the extension of the turn lanes so they do not back up into the Rt1 NB lanes blocking traffic.

## Rt 175 at Dorsey Run Rd

The County is scheduled to finish the corrections to the ADA ramps at the intersection that were left unfinished. The County has received approval of the re-design. Work is scheduled to begin Spring 2015.



## Snowden River Park & Ride

This project will include the addition of 96 parking spaces. Construction work has begun, grading is complete. With colder temperatures upon us, we anticipate work to be complete in Spring 2015.

## Deep Run ES Addition / Renovation

Construction on Phase I has begun and will include a 2 story classroom addition in the rear of Deep Run Elementary School building as well as an Administrative suite with secure vestibule in the front. HCPSS anticipates completion in Summer 2015.

## Whiskey Bottom Rd Backup Generator

SHA has constructed backup generator on Whiskey Bottom Road for its traffic signals. Due to complications, they are still working through issues before it will be fully operational. SHA is also considering a Hanover site.

## Thank You For Following Along!

I hope you have found this information useful. If there are any projects you would like to see included within this newsletter, please email me at [cball@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:cball@howardcountymd.gov).

All the best,

Dr. Calvin Ball  
Councilmember, District 2  
Howard County Council

*"Everybody can be great... because anybody can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and verb agree to serve. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love."*

~ **Martin Luther King, Jr.**